

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, lines 3-6, and replace it with the following paragraph:

--**Figure 1A(i)** is a representation showing the nucleotide sequence of both strands (SEQ ID NO: 1 which encodes the protein and SEQ ID NO: 3, respectively in order of appearance) of a differentially expressed band in hypothalamus tissue of lean and obese *Psammomys obesus* corresponding to *beacon*. The amino acids encoded by each codon are shown above in single letter code (SEQ ID NO: 2) and the numbering refers to the amino acid position from the start codon.--

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, lines 8-10, and replace it with the following paragraph:

--**Figure 1B** is a representation of a nucleotide (SEQ ID NO: 13) and corresponding amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 14) of human *beacon*. Human *beacon* is a "short" form of *Psammomys obesus beacon* except that amino acid 15 may be His or Arg. The corresponding codon may be CGC or CAC, respectively.--

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, lines 12-17, and replace it with the following paragraph:

--**Figure 2** is a representation showing (A). Amino acid alignments of beacon (SEQ ID NO: 2) with putative human (SEQ ID NO: 15), mouse (SEQ ID NO: 16), *Caenorhabditis elegans* (SEQ ID NO: 17), *Fasciola hepatica* (SEQ ID NO: 18), rice (SEQ ID NO: 19) and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (SEQ ID NO: 20) gene products. (B). Amino acid alignments of beacon (SEQ ID NO: 2 shown as the top sequence twice) with human ubiquitin (SEQ ID NO: 21) and ubiquitin-like protein 8 from *Arabidopsis thaliana* (SEQ ID NO: 22). Identical amino acids are marked with a line and plus signs indicate deletions are indicated by forward slashes. A spliced leader sequence in the *F. hepatica* gene did not allow the amino terminal amino acids to be compared.--